

North Hampton Heritage Commission

Meeting April 19, 2007

Location: North Hampton Town Administration Building, Mary Herbert Room and the Town Office Conference Room

Commissioners Present:

Jenifer Landman, Chair

Carolyn Brooks, Treasurer

Penny Kidd, Secretary

Jane Palmer, Alternate

Paul Cuetara

Ben King, Alternate

Commissioners/Guests Absent:

Emily Creighton, Selectman

Jane Currivan, Vice-Chair

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

A. Election of Officers

Having spoken with Jane Currivan regarding her continued role as Vice Chair, there was a brief discussion to determine interest in serving as an officer. A motion was made by Paul Cuetara, seconded by Ben King, and unanimously approved to retain the officers in their current positions:

Jenifer Landman, Chair

Jane Currivan, Vice Chair

Carolyn Brooks, Treasurer

Penny Kidd, Secretary

B. Treasurer's Report

The balance of the account needs to be determined. Penny will make an inquiry with the Town Administrative Assistant. A warrant article was approved in the past to allow a carryover balance annually to allow accumulation of funds.

C. Reappointments

More than a month ago, the names of the appointments was submitted to the Planning Board of those Commissioners whose terms were expiring. The item was never placed on the Planning Board's agenda. The next meeting of the Planning Board will include the Appointments on their agenda. In the meantime, according to policy, the Commissioners will keep their appointments until replaced. The Board of Selectmen has approved the non-posting of the appointment openings, as these are "reappointments."

D. New Heritage Room at Old Town Office

The new Heritage Commission room has room for a display cabinet(s). The Historical Society has a lockable display case which is being considered for this space. Following a discussion of the use and the concern of potential public access to the Heritage Room, a motion was made by Paul Cuetara--request the Historical Society to make a proposal regarding the use of some of the space in the Heritage meeting room, the size of their

cabinet(s), etc. The Heritage Commission will discuss and vote on the proposal. This was seconded by Jane Palmer and approved unanimously.

E. Town Hall Committee Status

The Town Hall Committee submitted an application for a Moose Plate Grant. The Committee has not met for a few weeks, deciding to meet only when necessary rather than establishing routine meeting dates. New members include Jane Palmer and George Chauncey.

The first stage was making application for the grant. The second stage will be the bell tower restoration, identifying the scope of the work for its repair. The third will be the RFPs to contractors on the approved list of architects, contractors, engineers, recognized by the Division of Historical Resources as having experience in working on town halls.

The plans for the Town Hall restoration will include wooden steps across the front, moving the handicapped access to the rear of the building. Some clean up is needed, such as the floor, removal of safes, and restoring some of the wood.

The first time the Town Hall was moved, it was reduced to pieces, and reassembled where the George Miller house is now. Then the Leavitt Family donated land to move Town Hall in whole to its present location.

Regarding the potential relocation of Town Hall, the Historical Society doesn't want it moved. Part of the historical significance of Town Hall is its proximity to the railroad tracks and old depot. It represents the heritage of the community and is a connection to the past. The community would be unable to replicate its contribution to the history of our town. Restoration of the building could inspire others to fix up their older structures, enhancing and preserving the flavor of New England.

The Building Maintenance Trust account has approximately \$48,000 and is not exclusively earmarked for Town Hall repairs. On July 1st another \$100,000 will be made available to town building repair and maintenance, but again, it not dedicated to the Town Hall.

The Town Hall Committee does not have any immediate action items for the Heritage Commission. It would be helpful if the Commission could contribute to a marketing strategy to increase community involvement.

F. Minutes

Minutes for March 15, 2007 were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Jane Palmer; Seconded by Paul Cuetara; followed by the unanimous approval of those Commissioners present at that meeting: Jane Palmer, Paul Cuetara, Jenny Landman and Penny Kidd. Carolyn Brooks and Ben King abstained, having not been in attendance at that meeting.

G. Project Update

Due to only a few famous people of the past remaining on the list previously identified for a new brochure, discussion identified a new project to pursue—that of Monuments and Landmarks of North Hampton.

- (1) Churches – Congregational at North Hill, Little River Church, Union Chapel, and the Forrest Griffin Barn.
- (2) Trees – Contact Stan Knowles to identify the oldest tree in North Hampton.
- (3) Ship Rock – Located at Woodland and Ship Rock Road, it represents the first conservation land established by North Hampton.
- (4) Bridges – There are four, which were named about soldiers lost in WWII, one of which was the Mill Dam bridge.
- (5) Monuments – Ben Franklin Post, Drake Farm, Dearborn on Post Road, Paul Revere Bell a Town Hall.
- (6) Cemeteries

The “homes over 100 years” project remains an open project. Now would be a desirable time to complete the collection of photographs, so that the surrounding trees do not obstruct the view of the structures.

H. Meeting Adjourned

Paul Cuetara made a motion to adjourn, Ben King seconded, and unanimous approval follow to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Kidd
Secretary